

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03027

EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: AO, CG, RH
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA
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1. THE SECRETARY MET WITH NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOSEPH GARBA AT USUN AT GARBA'S REQUEST AT 4:15 P.M., JULY 26. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THE ZAIRE-ANGOLA RELATIONS, POSSIBLE U.S. ASSISTANCE ON THE BENGUELA RAILWAY IN ANGOLA, UNITA AND ZIMBABWE.
 2. THE SECRETARY AND THE COMMISSIONER AGREED THAT THE MOVEMENT TOWARD RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA WAS VERY GOOD NEWS.
 3. GARBA SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT GESTURE AND A VERY GOOD THING IF THE UNITED STATES COULD HELP ANGOLA PUT THE BENGUELA RAILWAY BACK IN OPERATION. REPAIR OF THE BRIDGE (PROBABLY THE DILOLO-TEXEIRA DE SOUSA BRIDGE)
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WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL. THE RAILWAY WAS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO ANGOLA BUT ALSO HAS SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE ECONOMIES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ZAMBIA. IF IT COULD BE OPENED PRESSURE ON THE TAN-ZAM RAILWAY WOULD BE RELIEVED. THE SECRETARY AGREED TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IN RESTORING THE RAILWAY.

4. THE COMMISSIONER ASKED FOR THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON UNITA. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD TOLD THE ANGOLANS THAT WE HOPED THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO RECONCILE THEIR INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITH UNITA. THE ANGOLANS RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO AT PRESENT. THE SECRETARY SAID HE INTENDED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH PASCOAL LUVUALU (SECRETARY GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MPLA) TOMORROW.

5. GARBA THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES RAISE THE QUESTION OF UNITA WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA. IT COULD BE HELPFUL IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS FAVORED A RECONCILIATION.

6. IN RESPONSE TO GARBA'S QUERY ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE, THE SECRETARY SAID HE HAD MET WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA THIS MORNING, (JULY 26) AND HAD RECEIVED A LECTURE ABOUT WHY SANCTIONS SHOULD BE LIFTED. THE SECRETARY HAD REMINDED MUZOREWA THAT HE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ONE OF THE THE STRONG PROPONENTS OF IMPOSING SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA. MUZOREWA HAD REPLIED THAT CONDITIONS HAD CHANGED. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE USG WOULD REMAIN FIRM ON THE MAINTENANCE OF SANCTIONS. ONCE A LEGAL GOVERNMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN RHODESIA, THEN THE UNITED STATES COULD CHANGE ITS POSITION.
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7. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE HAD URGED MUZOREWA TO CONSIDER ATTENDING AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING AND HAD POINTED OUT THE ADVANTAGES THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE. MUZOREWA RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING WAS REQUIRED. NOTHING WOULD COME OUT OF IT. AGAIN, ON THIS ISSUE, AS ON SANCTIONS, NEITHER THE SECRETARY NOR MUZOREWA HAD CHANGED THEIR VIEWS AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISCUSSION. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE BISHOP HAD ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID THAT AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING WAS NOT DESIREABLE. THE SECRETARY TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD URGED MUZOREWA TO CONSIDER AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

8. CONTINUING ON THE SUBJECT OF RHODESIA, THE SECRETARY TOLD GARBA THAT HE FELT SOME OF THE OTHER INTERNAL LEADERS IN RHODESIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING. THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THAT GOAL. HE AND DAVID OWEN WOULD TALK TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ABOUT BOTH NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. ON THE LATTER THEY WOULD TELL HIM THAT THEY WANTED MORE HELP FROM SOUTH AFRICA. IT HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL ENOUGH TO DATE.

9. THE SECRETARY AND THE COMMISSIONER TALKED ALONE FOR
THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.
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